

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(s): Semmeling et al.

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EXAMINER: Gushi, Ross

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ATTORNEY 332-010912-US(C01)

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Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

Please amend the above identified Application as follows:

--This is a continuation from Application Serial No.: 10/129,594 filed July 8, 2002 which claims the benefit of the earlier filed International Application No. PCT/EP00/10621, International Filing Date, October 25, 2000, which designated the United States of America, and which international application was published on May 17, 2001 as International Publication No. WO 01/35498.--